

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 FBIE-00 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-08 SYE-00 /060 W
-----101907Z 127999 /40

P 101729Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8811

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 324

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC PINT

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF DUPONT WORKS MANAGER JEFFREY AGATE

REF: DUBLIN 283, STATE 026095, BELFAST 41

1. CONGEN PETER SPICER, BELFAST, ARRANGED MEETING FOR 1115 HOURS, FEBRUARY 9, WITH RUC DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE HERMON TO BE ATTENDED BY DONALD E. RONEY, LEGAL DEPARTMENT OF E.I. DUPONT, WILLIE JONES, ACTING MANAGER OF DUPONT PLANT IN LONDONDERRY, CONGEN SPICER AND RSO.

2. RSO UNABLE TO ATTEND MEETING DUE LATE ARRIVAL IN BELFAST OF TRAIN CAUSED BY BOMB THREAT ON RAIL LINE. MESSRS. RONEY AND JONES DEPARTED BY AUTO FOR LONDONDERRY UPON CONCLUSION OF MEETING WITH RUC. CONGEN BRIEFED RSO ON RESULTS OF MEETING.

3. JEFFREY AGATE GUNNED DOWN OUTSIDE HIS RESIDENCE BY TWO ASSAILANTS. GENERAL ROUNDUP BY RUC OF SUSPECTS FOLLOWED. RAYMOND PIUS MCCARTNEY, AGED 22, CHARGED WITH MURDER OF AGATE ON FEBRUARY 2 AND MURDER OF DETCTIVE CONSTABLE LIAM PATRICK MCNULTY IN LONDONDERRY ON JANUARY 27. A SECOND MAN EXPECTED TO BE CHARGED FEBRUARY 10 WITH AGATE MURDER. RUC SUSPECT A THIRD PERSON DROVE ASSAILANTS' CAR.

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4. NO DIRECT THREATS MADE AGAINST AGATE OR COMPANY, BUT AS INDICATED IN DUBLIN'S 283 ASSASSINATION MAY RESULT FROM PROVISIONAL I.R.A. ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO STEP UP ATTACKS AGAINST SECURITY FORCES AND "ECONOMIC TARGETS".

5. PROVISIONAL I.R.A. HAS NOT CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR

AGATE MURDER. RUC SPECULATE THAT I.R.A. MAY BE OPERATING IN CELLULAR GROUPS WHICH HAVE INDEPENDENCE OF ACTION WITHOUT HIGHER APPROVAL AND THAT KILLING OF AGATE MAY HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE BY SUCH A CELL. ABOUT A WEEK BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION, AGATE WAS PROMINENTLY MENTIONED WITH PHOTOS IN NEWSPAPERS AND THIS MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO HIS VISIBILITY AS A TARGET.

6. RUC ADVISED THAT TWO RELATIVES OF THE TWO PRIME SUSPECTS ARE ON DUPONT PAYROLL AND HAVE NOT REPORTED FOR WORK FOR LAST SEVERAL DAYS. FEELING OF RUC IS THAT THERE MAY BE AN I.R.A. CELL IN DUPONT PLANT AS WELL AS PLANTS OF GOODYEAR COMPANY AND HUGHES TOOL CO. RUC ALSO ADVISED CONFEREES THAT IVOR CANAVAN, NORTH IRISHMAN AND FORMER MAYOR OF LONDONDERRY WHO IS EMPLOYED AT DUPONT PLANT, AT ONE TIME WAS TARGETED BY THE I.R.A. BUT THAT TARGETING HAS BEEN REMOVED.

7. MR. RONEY IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO U.S. ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY 11.

8. DURING TRIP TO BELFAST RSO LEFT 75 COPIES OF PUBLICATION "COUNTERING TERRORISM" AT CONGEN FOR DISTRIBUTION AS NEEDED, AND OFFERED ASSISTANCE IF NEEDED. CURLEY

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Message Attributes

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